

Concerning the publishing of  
one of Mrs C's Books

London 21 January 1838.

Dear Mr Child

Predestination like jealousy makes  
the food it feeds on. The story of my delinquency is that of  
every one who is affected with that horrid disorder. I would  
have given I dare say some very reasonable excuse for having  
obeyed the acknowledged debts that were due for your most  
friendly and welcome letter for the first fortnight after it  
was received; but the fact would now be too late and add only  
to my ~~incompetence~~. I will only say, and that I assure you  
with some conviction "Pecuniary" — attracting circumstances  
now occur to me, but as my conscience spoke first I presume  
it cannot be mistaken; I have accused, I have condemned it  
is now for you — listening to the natural clamour of your dep-  
to pardon. The uncertainty of obtaining at will of itself  
be a great punishment.

Now to return to your letter I must say  
that it was extremely interesting; that it contained more  
information respecting persons and things that I left behind  
than all the rest of my correspondence put together. There  
were also in it amiable allusions to the charming evenings  
we have spent together by your fireside that made me  
revert with a sad delight to those golden years that  
friendship and friendship alone can mix with the sands  
of life. What my feelings were then towards yourself and  
your worthy partner they are now. I still place you foremost  
among the few whom I can esteem admire and love.  
During the two years that have now elapsed since  
I left you, I have frequently heard of you and always



what it excited what it delighted me to hear; and when you were branded by the more calculating and sober as unchangeable enthusiasts, I understood that you were abroad hand in hand in your noble vocation — The first anti Slavery book which you were so good as to forward to me never reached me; but on my arrival here I found a copy of it in the hands of Mr. Rich who informed me at that same time that he had written to you unflinchingly to its republication here. Your husband's letter to him dated I think in September, announced that you were then forwarding to him the proof sheets of <sup>an</sup> anti Slavery annual. These did not reach London before the 22 of November. I happened to be at Mr. Rich when they arrived. His opinion as immediately expressed was that it was too late to think of republishing that work here as an annual; moreover that he feared that the interest generally felt here on the subject of it was exhausted by the fact of the abolition act. With these impressions he would not venture himself on a republication. As you had decided that it should be offered to Murray he lost no time in doing it. The proof sheets were several days with him and on being applied to for them returned them with the bill which I enclose to you. This bill did not materially alter Mr. Rich's opinion as before expressed. Finding that he was very much taken up with other business I offered to take charge of the sheets to some other respectable publisher. He gave me letters both to Saunders and Otley, and to Barclay on whom I waited in succession having the sheets with both of them for two or three days. Their answers were complimentary as to the merit of the work, but they declined undertaking the republication assigning as a reason that they had



already been given by Mr. Rich. The cause of their selection  
was that the work "harmonised with their relations in the  
way of business" for they publish liberal works. After  
these two failures (for which I was not prepared I must say  
after I had read the admirable preface and three or four  
of its prominent sentences) we determined that it would be  
wiser to offer the work elsewhere - you had mentioned Tegg  
and Kearsley. Neither of them Mr. Rich assured me would  
buy the work. Tho' they might republish it. Tegg he represents  
as very willing to profit by your works but not disposed  
to allow you any <sup>thing</sup> for them. At all events were you to offer  
him the work now in question he would give nothing for it  
which would be accepted; - He or Kearsley would pay pretty  
well the first copy that came to England, but would not  
buy the right of publishing it, for they pretend  
that they have such a right over every work  
first published out of England. To influence the decision  
of Saunders and Otley I showed them Mr. Murray's note -  
and offered the work to Barclay who is at the head of  
the publishing line without saying that it had been offered  
elsewhere. The identity of the result in both cases convinced  
me that I could not find a purchaser for it. I had no opportunity  
to mention the price at which I would have disposed of it  
but had determined to ask (after taking Mr. Rich's advice)  
£100 for it. - I need not say that this unfortunate  
result of my attempts to sell the book for you has vexed  
me not a little. The subject of your book is I am (as an  
American) ashamed to say it, new in our country, whilst  
here it has long occupied and excited people's minds. So long indeed  
that they have disposed to leave it where legislation has  
at length placed it. The question of right has been decided



Whosoever feeling is yet engaged with the subject is concentrated  
on the experiment going on in the West Indies. This is doubtless  
the reason why your assual has not found a purchaser  
among those to whom it was offered. Let me hope that from  
the opposite cause its circulation in the United States <sup>will be</sup> as  
general as the principles on which it rests are worthy of  
those by whom they are advocated, with so much force and eloquence.  
As to the cause itself, its triumph ~~is~~ has not only the support of  
my reason, but it excites my feelings in the strongest manner.

The Preface is the platform, all generous spirits, all those  
who have the honor of their nation and Religion at heart  
must meet to struggle with Avarice in its most hideous  
form. — Slavery — May God my dear friend, who alone would  
have infused into your heart <sup>that deep</sup> sentiment of the just and urgent  
that breathes in every line you have written in favour of his oppressed  
creatures, carry conviction to every honest breast in our land  
and reason and conscience dissolve the chain which violence  
first forged and which the sophistry of priest and unscrupulous interest  
would fasten forever on our poor victims. Whilst the  
abomination of slavery continues among us our country is nothing  
but a white washed Sepulcher. There is however something to hope  
for a people who for conscience sake left of you plenty in Europe  
for our then inhospitable shores; who for a principle staked all they  
held dear in an apparently hopeless contest with the mighty Britain,  
who again within a few years made the cause of the murdered Moors  
their own. — Go on my friend if you do not all you will yet do  
something; there is not a generous sentiment that you express, not an  
argument that you use, that does not corroborate the Africans shall they.

I am that I am near closing in should leaving advised.  
to the enquiries which your husband wished made in Paris. To Paris  
I have not been since receiving his first letter on the subject — Knowing as you  
myself there likely to engage in the business I charged a friend of mine before  
I went to London to employ his correspondent in Paris for the purpose of the enquiry  
the preliminary researches as I heard from my friend had been long delayed and  
were so little encouraging in their result that he gave up further effort to  
my request. This I should I now feel have written before; but hearing that the Legislature  
had thrown out Mr. Vane's claim on principles distinct from the wisdom of the  
the subject has been suffered to remain on that you — for I feared of involving

Mr. Child is in the subject — your in love to him and believe me your faithful friend J. J. Jackson